

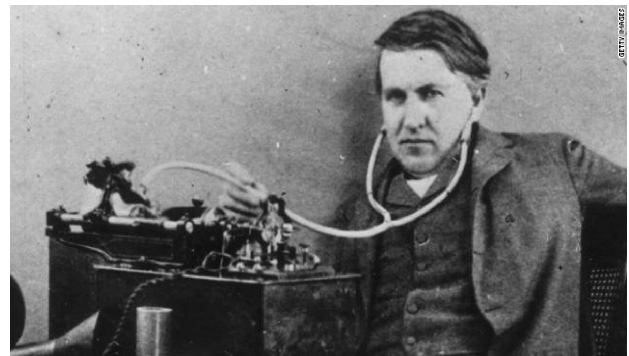


Earhart Edison Exploration Academy

established 2013

A STEM Exploration Experience at North Hall Middle School

Application Packet for Rising 6th Grade Students 2023-2024



"The most difficult thing is the decision to act; the rest is merely tenacity. The fears are paper tigers. You can do anything you decide to do. You can act to change and control your life, and the procedure, the process is its own reward." Amelia Earhart

"Genius is one per cent inspiration and ninety-nine per cent perspiration. Accordingly, a 'genius' is often merely a talented person who has done all of his or her homework." Thomas Edison

Thank you for your interest in the Earhart-Edison Exploration Academy! Parents and students: please complete this application together.

Introduction: Identify, Prepare, Connect, and CREATE

The Earhart-Edison Exploration Academy (E2) is the Hall County middle school program of choice where students explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in a rich, interdisciplinary context. Students demonstrate growth and mastery of the Georgia standards through technology-based projects and authentic intellectual work demonstrated in variety of projects throughout the year. Students are immersed in an environment of STEM exploration that emphasizes service-learning, career exploration and leadership development.

How is this program different than traditional middle schools?

The E2 teachers collaborate as a middle school team of professionals who enable students to thrive in a rich and nurturing environment. This team of teachers coordinates opportunities for real-life STEM experiences in technology, product development, research, contests, field trips and more. All E2 students have the opportunity to earn a high school credit for Honors Earth Systems in the 6th grade. E2 students can earn at least two high school science credits, one high school English credit, and one high school math credit before entering high school, along with the other high school credit opportunities available in all Hall County middle schools. In addition, all E2 students experience STEM exploratory and pathway connections courses and use laptops not only for these classes, but also for collaborative learning experiences in language arts and social studies. The E2 Academy's goal is to prepare students for advanced programs at the high school level such as the NHHS STEM or ATLAS academies, AP courses, the International Baccalaureate Program, and/or dual enrollment opportunities.

MISSION:

Students will demonstrate growth and achieve mastery of the Georgia standards through technology-based projects and authentic intellectual work. Students will be immersed in an environment of STEM exploration that also emphasizes the humanities, service-learning, and leadership.

Vision:

Earhart-Edison learners are becoming risk-takers, creative problem-solvers, critical thinkers, collaborators, and visionaries who are curious and passionate about learning.

Selection Process

1. Complete application packets are reviewed by the E2 Selection Committee. Students are selected based on evidence from their applications, recommendations, motivation inventory results, and transcripts (test scores and report cards) and interactive student interviews and/or additional assessments.

2. When the evaluation process has been completed, families will be notified by mail about their student's application status: accepted or declined. Please note: Selection Committee decisions are final and reasons for non-acceptance are not shared.

The Earhart-Edison Exploration Academy and North Hall Middle School are committed to providing equal opportunity to its students and employees, and do not discriminate or allow discrimination from others on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, or ancestry.

<i>Criteria Student will:</i>	<i>Evidence/Documentation</i>
Demonstrate advanced levels of knowledge and aptitude in math, science, technology and/or social issues.	Transcripts, recommendations and application
Exhibit outstanding communication skills.	Transcripts, recommendations, application and interview
Possess qualities associated with creativity, including curiosity, resourcefulness, and a problem-solving disposition.	Application, recommendations and interview
Be highly motivated to excel in her/his studies.	Transcripts, recommendations, motivation inventory results, application and interview

Application Checklist

- _____ 1. References: On page 9, list the three teachers you will ask to complete short confidential recommendation forms on behalf of your child. Please be sure to contact teachers as soon as possible
- _____ 2. Complete Student Information and Parent Information (p. 5)
- _____ 3. Students: Complete Student Questionnaire (p. 6)
- _____ 4. Parents: Complete and attach answers to the Parent Questionnaire (p. 6)
- _____ 5. Complete Parent Assurances, Signature, and Application Statement (p. 7)
- _____ 6. Hand deliver or mail application form as soon as possible to:

The Earhart-Edison Academy
 Attn: Kimberley Nash and Katie Olson
 North Hall Middle School
 4856 Rilla Road
 Gainesville, GA 30506

Application Timeline and Instructions

Any Hall County School District student in 5th grade may apply to E2. Parents of students who live outside the NHMS attendance zone must provide transportation for their children to and from school. We will accept applications from students who are not zoned for Hall County Schools, but will only grant admission if space is available after all qualified resident students have been placed. If accepted, out-of-district students pay tuition as outlined at this link: <https://www.hallco.org/web/out-of-district-choice-application/>

- 1. Paper Application: The application may be hand delivered, mailed to the address above, or scanned and emailed to Kimberley Nash at kimberley.nash@hallco.org
- 2. References: Parents/Guardians ask three teachers to serve as references for the student. See pages 9 – 11
- 3. Academic Records: Once your application is submitted and the parent has submitted his/her signature, we will obtain official copies of your child's standardized testing history for the last two years, his or her most recent report cards, attendance information and any disciplinary records
- 4. Completed applications must be received by February 17, 2023. You will receive an email confirming the receipt of your child's complete application from Dr. Nash or Mrs. Olson

Student Information

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Current School: _____ Student ID#: _____

Home attendance zone (North Hall, Chestatee, Gainesville, etc.): _____

Indicate area(s) of special interest:

List any extra-curricular activities in which the student participates:

Parent/Guardian Information

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address(es): _____

Student Questionnaire

(To be completed by student only) All responses must be handwritten. Please answer all three of the questions below and attach them to your application. Please limit yourself to 1 - 3 paragraphs per question.

1. Why are you interested in applying to E2 Academy?
2. Describe a time when you solved a problem in a creative way. What was the problem, how did you solve it creatively, and what was the overall result?
3. STEM is all around us, including when we cook, make a Flipgrid video at school, or ride a bike. Pick a hobby or activity you do every week and explain how the STEM disciplines are involved.

Parent Questionnaire

(To be completed by parents) For the questions below, please limit your responses to 1 or 2 paragraphs each. You may attach your answers to number 1 and 2 to the application.

1. What are the gifts and talents your child will bring to E2? (Feel free to discuss not only academics, but also issues related to character, leadership, etc.)
2. What have been your child's greatest challenges in school, and what has been done to help your child overcome those challenges? (For example: particular learning difficulties, social/emotional issues, illness, stress)
3. Check the following programs in which your child is **proficient**:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adobe Spark • Google Drive/Suite • Minecraft • iMovie • Canva • Photostory • Scratch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prezi • Tinkercad • Other(s)_____ • WeVideo • Book Creator
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Parent Assurances

Please initial next to each box and then sign below.

- _____ I grant permission for the E2 Selection Committee to request and review my child's complete academic and discipline records
- _____ I will commit to 15 hours of volunteer service for each of my children enrolled in E2. (Many opportunities for volunteering are available outside of the normal work day.)
- _____ I will make sure that my child brings his/her school chromebook to school each day. I also agree to keep my child's laptop fully charged and in good working order
- _____ I understand that parents and teachers are a team at E2. I pledge to support the E2 learning activities, knowing that my child is growing and that we are all dedicated to my child's success
- _____ I understand that the nature of the E2 curriculum and the variety of individual and/or small group activities require students to exhibit more maturity and self-control than may be expected of middle school students in a traditional setting. Therefore, if my child has persistent problems with behavior and/or motivation at E2, I understand that he/she may be removed from the program
- _____ I understand that if my child resides out of the North Hall school zone that I am responsible for transportation to and from NHMS and that I will provide such transportation
- _____ **I understand that the E2 selection process is multifaceted and that reasons for non-selection will not be shared under any circumstances**

By signing below, I confirm that the information I am submitting is accurate and can be used for the purpose of processing my child's application to the Earhart-Edison Academy. I give my permission for the E2 Selection Committee to access my child's attendance, discipline records, transcript, and assessment scores for the purpose of evaluating my child's application. I understand that this application does not guarantee acceptance into any program of choice.

Parent Signature

Date

Interactive Group Interviews

All students submitting an E2 application will participate in an interactive group interview experience at NHMS in March 2023. NHMS staff will supervise the activities and students will rotate through different activities with other applicants. The group interview experience will take place after school and will last approximately one hour. Dr. Nash and Mrs. Olson will send applicant parents/guardians a link to register your child for a group interview session near the end of February.

Application Statement

Hall County Schools offers two middle school programs of choice: The Da Vinci Academy and the Earhart-Edison Academy. If a family is prepared to provide transportation (if not living in the SHMS or NHMS school zones), then a student is able to apply to both programs by completing separate applications for each program.

Please check the appropriate statement below:

- × I am only applying to E2.
- × I am applying to both programs of choice, and E2 is my first choice; DVA is my second choice.

References

Please ask **three teachers** to complete short CONFIDENTIAL recommendation forms (place their names on the lines below), which will be submitted online to Kimberley Nash. If possible, please select two references that are current Academic classroom teachers (please select current math and ELA teachers). If your child has only one content area teacher, then choose another current teacher (SEARCH, special area, etc.). The third reference may be another current teacher (regular classroom, special area, SEARCH, etc.) or a fourth-grade teacher as well.

Optional 4th Reference: In addition to your three required teacher recommendations, you may also ask one individual who is not a teacher (e.g., a scoutmaster, coach, church leader, etc.) to submit a letter of recommendation if you feel that this person has had opportunities to observe your child's interests, talents, work ethic, ability to work with others, etc., in ways that may not have been seen in school. This letter of recommendation does not replace one of the required teacher recommendations; it is supplemental. This reference may not be a family member. The letter, which should not exceed one page in length, should be sent directly to Kimberley Nash and Katie Olson.

The letter may be scanned or e-mailed to kimberley.nash@hallco.org
or mail to:

The Earhart-Edison Academy
Attn: Kimberley Nash and Katie Olson
North Hall Middle School
4856 Rilla Road
Gainesville, GA 30506

Teacher Reference Information

To help us know when application packets are complete or to whom we should send reminders, please give us the teachers' names and a way to contact each individual you have asked to complete a recommendation form:

1. Name and email of current Academic classroom teacher reference: _____
This reference should be a current teacher (ELA or Math.).

2. Name and email of second Academic teacher reference: _____
This reference should be another current teacher (ELA or Math.).

3. Name and email of third teacher reference: _____
This reference may be another current teacher (regular classroom, special area, SEARCH, etc.) or a fourth-grade teacher.

Optional: Name of individual who is not a teacher who will submit a letter of recommendation:
This reference may not be a family member.

Please give the three teachers named above one of the forms on the next two pages. The teachers should receive these forms as soon as possible but no later than February 17, 2023.

The E2 Teacher Reference Request

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a reference for _____, who is applying to the Earhart-Edison Academy (E2) at North Hall Middle School.

Your professional observations are very important as we attempt to select students who will thrive in the unique learning environments of E2. So, again, thank you for being an important part of the application process. Please email kimberley.nash@hallco.org in order to receive the link to the on-line teacher reference form .

Sincerely,

Kimberley Nash and Katie Olson
E2 Co-Coordinator, Earhart-Edison Academy at North Hall Middle School

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